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April 13, 2007

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Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: ***Ex Parte Communication***
High Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337
Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No.
96-45

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On April 11, 2007, I met with Scott Deutchman in Commissioner Copps' office regarding Windstream's April 2, 2007, letter to Commissioner Tate and Commissioner Baum, filed in the dockets listed above. In a separate meeting I also met with Jeremy Marcus, Jennifer McKee, Katie King, Ted Burmeister, Gary Seigel and Jennifer Prime of the Telecommunications Access Policy Division of the Wireline Competition Bureau regarding the same letter.

During these conversations I reiterated Windstream's position that, although important to sustainability of the fund, controlling the growth of the size of the fund should be a starting point, not an end goal, for universal service reform. I emphasized that in addition to recommending measures to control fund size growth, the Joint Board should make specific recommendations for urgently needed and long overdue fundamental reform. We also discussed Windstream's specific suggestions for reform. The discussion was consistent with positions Windstream has already described in record of this proceeding and in the April 2nd letter.

You may reach me by email (eric.n.einhorn@windstream.com) or by phone in my DC office (202-997-9387) if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

/s/

Eric N. Einhorn